

CLAIMS

1. A dielectric barrier discharge type external-electrode discharge lamp comprising:

a glass tube whose ends are sealed to form a discharge

5 space in which a discharge medium is enclosed; and

two electrodes, each of the electrodes being provided on an outer circumference of a respective end of the glass tube, and the two electrodes and portions of the glass tube between the two electrodes and the discharge space

10 equivalently functioning as a first capacitor and a second capacitor during operation, wherein

a capacitance of the first capacitor and a capacitance of the second capacitor have been adjusted to be equal or close in value.

15

2. The external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein a difference between values of the capacitance of the first capacitor and the capacitance of the second capacitor is less than or equal to 20% of a smaller one of the values.

20

3. The external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 1 or 2, wherein

25 portions, of inner circumferential surfaces of the ends of the glass tube, that correspond to the two electrodes are substantially congruent with respect to shape.

4. A manufacturing method for an external-electrode discharge lamp including a glass tube sealed at a first site

and a second site, the glass tube having a discharge space in which a discharge medium is enclosed at a reduced pressure, the manufacturing method comprising:

5 a fixing step of fixing an insert to an inner circumferential surface of the first site, the insert including an end face having a shape substantially the same as a portion of the sealed first site facing the discharge space when the second site is sealed, the end face facing the discharge space, and an exterior and an interior of the 10 glass tube being linked;

a depressurization/filling step of depressurizing the interior of the glass tube and filling the discharge medium; and

15 a plugging step of plugging a portion linking the exterior and the interior of the glass tube in the fixing step.

5. The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, further comprising:

20 a tentative sealing step of tentatively sealing a site of the glass tube outward of the insert that was fixed to the glass tube, wherein

the tentative sealing step is performed between the filling step and the plugging step.

25

6. The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, wherein

the insert includes a through hole passing between end

faces thereof,

an entirety of an outer circumferential surface of the insert and an inner circumferential surface of the glass tube are fused in the fixing step, and

5 the through hole is plugged in the plugging step.

7. The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, wherein

10 the insert is constituted from glass including a component substantially the same as the glass tube.

8. The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of any of claims 4 to 7, wherein

the second site is tip-off sealed, and

15 the first site is sealed after the second site has been sealed.

9. A backlight unit including the external-electrode discharge lamp of any of claims 1 to 3 as a light source.

20

10. The backlight unit of claim 9 being a direct-type backlight unit using a plurality of the external-electrode discharge lamps.